

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 1, and add new claims 13-30 as follows:

1-12. (cancelled)

13. (new) A rapid-exchange catheter, comprising:

an inner tubular member, having a proximal end, a distal end, and a guide wire lumen extending from a proximal guide wire opening disposed distal of the proximal end of the inner tubular member to a distal guide wire opening disposed at the distal end of the inner tubular member;

an guide wire sleeve disposed about at least a portion of the inner tubular member, having a proximal end, a distal end, and a guide wire opening disposed within the guide wire sleeve the guide wire opening distal of the proximal end of the guide wire sleeve, wherein the guide wire opening within the guide wire sleeve further comprises a guide wire ramp extending into the proximal guide wire opening of the inner tubular member.

14. (new) The rapid-exchange catheter of claim 13, wherein the guide wire ramp is an integral extension of the guide wire sleeve.

15. (new) The rapid-exchange catheter of claim 13, wherein the guide wire sleeve is a unitary construction.

16. (new) The rapid-exchange catheter of claim 13, wherein the guide wire sleeve and guide wire ramp is a unitary construction.

17. (new) The rapid-exchange catheter of claim 13, wherein the guide wire sleeve and guide wire ramp is a unitary construction.

18. (new) The rapid-exchange catheter of claim 13, wherein at least a portion of the inner tubular member is slidably disposed within at least a portion of the guide wire sleeve.

19. (new) The rapid-exchange catheter of claim 18, wherein the proximal guide wire opening of the inner tubular member has a length, wherein the guide wire ramp is translated along the length of the proximal guide wire opening of the inner tubular member during translation of the guide wire sleeve relative to the inner tubular member from a first position to a second position.

20. (new) The rapid-exchange catheter of claim 13, wherein the proximal guide wire opening of the inner tubular member is larger than the guide wire opening of the guide wire sleeve.